



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

(310) 659-0205

VOL. XVIII
No. 29

JULY 29, 1996

CAMPAIGN '96: UNINSURED DRIVERS TARGETED.

Editor's note: Not a lot of publicity so far about Prop. 213 by Insurance Comm. Chuck Quackenbush(R), but it's probably headed for a win this November. Here is our report & analysis...

...The title of this tort reform measure which appears on the Nov. 5th ballot starts out: *Limitation on Recovery to Felons*. That's the grabber. "Denies all recovery of damages to a convicted felon whose injuries were proximately caused during the commission of the felony or immediate flight therefrom." The average voter probably thinks this measure is about crime. It is, but not the one described by the AG's summary. The odds of a person suing you for a car accident right after that person has committed a crime is fairly remote, at least that's what opponents of Prop. 213 claim. A more likely scenario is this:

...You're driving along, talking on your cell phone and you don't see that traffic has stopped up ahead. You slam on the brakes, but still rear-end the car in front of you. What are the odds that the driver you hit is uninsured? According to YES on 213 sources, 25% of all the millions of CA drivers don't have insurance. What 213 would do is prevent the uninsured driver from suing you for non-economic damages (what is commonly called *pain & suffering*). They can force your insurance company to repair their car and pay for legit medical bills, but that's it. That's the key part of this initiative. And always remember: *driving without insurance is a crime*...

...According to *Californians for Personal Responsibility* (YES on 213), if 213 is approved, it will save insurance companies about \$327 million per year on claims. The YES committee thinks the average driver in L.A. would save \$84 per year, but there's no guarantee that the savings will be passed along. Consultant

Joe Shumate is running the YES campaign, with Rex Frazier doing daily mgt. Stoorza, Ziegeus Metzger is handling free media, while Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk are the legal counsel. HQ ☎(916)449-2957...

...So far there's no official opposition committee, but Harvey Rosenfield of the Prop. 103 Enforcement Project wrote the NO argument for the ballot pamphlet. Rosenfield calls Prop. 213, "No fault for reckless drivers." He sees this as an attempt to *blame the poor* and claims that all the stuff about felons leaving a crime scene is just a smoke screen to mask the real intent, which is to prevent uninsured drivers from suing for non-economic damages. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: CLINTON CONTINUES TO HOLD BIG LEAD IN CA AS DOLE'S CAMPAIGN STRUGGLES ON.

Editor's note: The RNC Presidential Nominating Convention runs from Aug. 10th to 16th in San Diego. That's about two weeks away and the likely GOP presidential nominee, former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, is still trailing President Bill Clinton(D) in the latest polls and his campaign continues to falter, especially in Calif. with its 54 important electoral votes. Here's our update & analysis...

...The news from last week's new L.A. Times survey has some of our GOP sources in the *doldrums*. And for good reason. Pres. Clinton, with all his character problems, the FBI file stuff and Whitewater, now holds a 27 point lead on Dole -- 61% to 34% in Calif. In a 3-way race with Ross Perot, Pres. Clinton gets 50%, Dole 30% and Perot 17%. A month ago, pollster Mervin Field's survey showed Clinton holding a 44% to 29% lead Dole, with Perot at 13%. There's no doubt the race will tighten up, but these polls are certainly good news for the Clinton/Gore '96 campaign...

...So what's happened in a month to push Pres. Clinton

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$90.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

way out in front in Calif. and cause Bob Dole's numbers to crumble? Here's what our sources say: 1) the U.S. and Calif. economies are booming along in great shape and this helps Clinton - in other words, the old political adage of *people vote their pocketbook* appears to be holding for Clinton; 2) the Dole *tobacco isn't addictive* flap was very damaging; 3) Dole's reversal on repealing the assault weapons ban has hurt him with a key part of the GOP base; 4) voters are distressed by the GOP's hardline congressional agenda and this too hurts Dole; 5) the continuing brouhaha over the abortion plank in the GOP platform is mashing Dole with moderate pro-choice GOP women; and 6) our sources say Dole's message has NOT impressed Calif. voters one bit. The L.A. Times poll showed Pres. Clinton ahead of Dole 52% to 34% on the question of *who would serve Calif. better?*...

...FYI: In the *VP Derby*, Calif. AG Dan Lungren is still on that short list of about 6 Republicans, according to the NY Times. Dole is supposed to announce his VP choice from Russell, Kansas on Aug. 9th. Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: UPDATES ON 204, 210 & 218.
Editor's note: Just a brief update on three of the measures facing voters this fall...

◆ **204** - This is the \$995 million bond measure now known as the *Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act*. Sources confirm that The Dolphin Group & Sheingold Associates will handle the campaign. The preliminary budget estimate for the campaign is about \$1-2 million. So far, there is no organized opposition or as one source said, "All the players (ag, water & environmental interests) are aboard and are in lock step."...

◆ **210** - There's now a formal NO on 210 committee which will oppose the CA minimum wage initiative. The new opposition group will go under the umbrella name of the *Alliance to Protect Small Business & Jobs*. Prop. 210 would raise the State's minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.75 in 2 years. Alliance members include: CA Restaurant Assn., CA Grape & Tree Fruit League, CA Grocers Assn., CA Hotel & Motel Assn., the CA Retailers Assn. and the CA chpt. of the Nat'l Fed. of Indep. Business. The PBN Co. is lead consultant, with Charlton Research on polling and Bagatelos & Fadem as legal counsel. ☎(916)444-2671...

◆ **218** - An opposition group is now on record against Jarvis/Gann IV --- aka the Right to Vote on Taxes Act, backed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. and Paul Gain's Citizens Cmt. The opposition will go under the banner of *Citizens for Voters Rights*, with the campaign division of Nelson Communications handling the NO side. Rick Manter of Nelson is the lead consultant ☎(714)838-0739. Olson, Hagel, Fong et al are the legal counsel for the NO side. As CALPEEK readers may recall, in mid-June Nelson Communications headed an "educational campaign" on 218, with a coalition which included the League of CA Cities, the County Supervisors Assn. of CA (CSAC) and the LWV --- all vigorous opponents of Prop. 13. About two weeks ago, the FPPC issued a ruling about so-called "educational campaigns" and that's when the 218 educational effort was scrapped and a formal NO on 218 group was formed. Meanwhile, YES on 218 has hired Sacto-based McNally Temple Assoc. as media consultants. Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk are the legal counsel. Stay tuned...

L.A. CO. SUP. BURKE AT PUBLIC POLICY SERIES.
L.A. County Sup. Yvonne Burke will be the keynote speaker at the Public Policy Series' breakfast on Aug. 15th --- 8 a.m., City Club in downtown L.A. For info & RSVPs ☎(213)617-4074...

CAMPAIGN '96: CCRI STILL LEADING IN POLLS.
Editor's note: Prop. 209 (aka the CA Civil Rights Initiative) is still leading in the latest polling data, but the numbers are starting to slip. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Few insiders are willing to stick their collective necks out and predict that Prop. 209 will lose on Nov. 5th, but there are *some signs of slippage*. The latest L.A. Times poll shows 209 still leading by a margin of 59% YES to 29% NO, with 12 undecided. This survey was taken July 13-16 among 1,267 registered voters. Back in March, 209 was leading by a margin of 66% YES to 22% NO. FYI: A month ago, the Field Poll (June 10-16, 719 registered voters) showed Prop. 209 ahead by a margin of 56% YES to 35% NO. If approved, CCRI would end State affirmative action laws & programs...

...Opponents of 209 (*Women Won't Go Back - The Campaign to Save Women's Rights & Civil Rights*) are obviously very pleased to see the polling numbers

decline, but are even more excited about the recent announcement by L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, who is now on record **opposing** Prop. 209. Riordan thus becomes the highest profile GOPer in Calif. to go on record against CCRI. But he's not completely alone. Assemblyman Bruce McPherson(R-Santa Cruz) is also opposed. So is GOP businesswoman Patty De Dominic, former president of the Nat'l Assn. of Women Business Owners and former Orange Co. Sup. Harriett Wieder. The S.F. Chamber of Commerce also has gone on record against CCRI. But Republicans in general are very supportive of 209 --- 71% YES vs. only 19% opposed. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR BALLOT.

Editor's note: Many of Calif.'s 470 cities and 58 counties will have local ballot measures facing voters Nov. 5th. Here is our first report on some of these measures. FYI: Aug. 9th is the deadline for most cities/counties to place measures on the ballot...

❑ **Santa Clara Co.** - County supervisors will place a 1/2 cent sales tax proposal on the ballot which will raise about \$1.1 billion over a 9-year period, with the money going into the general fund. Supes want to use for the money for transportation related projects. Because the money will go into the general fund, supporters only need a 50% vote. Townsend, Raimundo, Besler & Usher are the consultants. Still under consideration is a proposal to change the charter to allow a vote when there's a vacancy on the board of supes. Vacancies are now filled by appointment...

❑ **L.A. Co.** - Voters in L.A. County will face a new and very tough campaign reform and spending limit measure placed on the ballot by L.A. Co. Supes on a 3-1 vote. The author, Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky, made major revisions to his original plan after Common Cause and the LWV voice objections. Now all the parties seem satisfied. Key points: No more contributions from lobbyists; PAC need at least 100 members; fundraising can only be done 15 months prior to and 6 months after an election; and a 2-tier contribution limit. More details in the weeks ahead...

❑ **L.A. City** - There are 5 (maybe more) measures under consideration including: 1) several charter clean-up proposals - including proposals dealing with campaigns & elections; 2) a police & fire safety pension

plan measure; 3) a measure to strip the mayor of the power to appoint the Ethics Commission president; 4) a measure to deregulate the Dept. of Water & Power; and 5) a \$750 million assessment to improve parks. This measure is known as "L.A. For Kids" and consultant Steve Afriat is in charge...

...Of all the L.A. City ballot measures, the most interesting is the LADWP charter revision to allow them to compete with other utilities. And the big political question is this: Will So. Calif. Edison be an active opponent of this charter revision or will it remain neutral? If they decide to oppose this measure, then we're looking at **Energy Wars**...

❑ **City of Sacramento** - Sacto City police have qualified a binding arbitration initiative for the Nov. 5th ballot. Initiative sponsors collected 54,000 signatures, but needed only 28,800 to qualify. Consultant Phil Giarrizzo will handle the campaign...

❑ **San Francisco** - There are about 5-6 ballot measures so far. Sup. Tom Ammiano is the leading the charge to return S.F. to districtwide elections for supes. He's also pushing a preferential voting selection process for supes. Also on the ballot is a \$100 million bond measure for low income affordable housing; a charter amendment for collective bargaining; a taxi reform measure; and a \$73 million bond measure to rebuild the de Young Art Museum in Golden Gate Park. Consultants John Whitehurst & Elizabeth Colton, along with pollster David Binder, are working on the art museum measure...

❑ **Santa Cruz County** - Voters will be asked to approve a 1/4 cent tax hike for libraries. This measure will require a 2/3rds vote...

SCAG SETS ECONOMIC LEADSHIP SUMMIT.

So. Calif.'s entire U.S. House delegation is being invited to attend a summit where regional economic issues will be discussed (base closures, the Alameda Corridor and NAFTA). The summit is sponsored by the So. Calif. Assn. of Govts.(SCAG) and will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 19 at SCAG's HQ, 818 W. 7th St., L.A. For info ☎(213)236-1885...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ **Full Metal Jacket** - Gov. Wilson has signed SB 671(Peace/Lewis) to shorten the time from 15 to 10 days for the DOJ to do a background check on individuals who buy guns. Why the shorter time frame? It's faster to send the DROS (dealer record of sale) form to the Calif. DOJ via *FAX* and *computer* than the U.S. Mail. FYI: keep your eyes on AB 635(Bowler) --- a bill which would require the Calif. DOJ to issue an annual report to legislators about which guns are most frequently used in crime. To do this, DOJ would be linked by computer to some 30 local crime labs around the State. Good idea...

■ **McClintock Says No Way** - Remember our story about Tom McClintock (2 weeks ago), quoting sources who said he was talking about running for Controller in '98? We got a call from McClintock last week and he says no way. McClintock hopes to return to the Assembly in the 38th AD this November...

■ **Saturday Night Special Update** - The San Jose City Council last month voted 6-5 to order their city attorney to draft a Saturday Night Special handgun ban similar to the law in West Hollywood. And our sources say that the NRA & Calif. Rifle & Pistol Assn. lawsuit against West Hollywood is reasonably close to a court date...

■ **L.A. City Politics** - The City Attorney's race in '97 is heating up. Challenger Ted Stein reports raising \$547,000 in his race to unseat incumbent Jim Hahn, who raised about \$225,000. But as numerous sources have said, Stein will need about \$1.5 million overall because he's virtually unknown to voters. As for Hahn, he's landed attorney George Kieffer (a Sr. partner at the Manatt law firm) to chair his reelection campaign. And Hahn's new finance committee includes former Riordan Dep. Mayor Mary Leslie; PA exec/city hall insider Maureen Kindel; and Priscilla Burton, who was U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's finance director in '94...

SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

Deadlines for news & Marketplace Network are 12 noon each Wednesday. CALPEEK is printed and mailed each Thursday. Our FAX ☎ is (310)657-4340. CALPEEK does NOT make refunds on cancellations...

CAMPAIGN '96: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on key U.S. House races here in Calif...

☒ **1st CD** - The Michela Alioto(D) vs. U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs(R) battle continues on the front burner over the distribution by the Riggs campaign of a *Human Events* article which compared Alioto and her family to Benito Mussolini. Late last week the Nat'l Italian American Foundation got involved by issuing a statement denouncing the magazine article. "Making a comparison between the Alioto family, among the most prominent in Calif., and the Mussolini family continues the intolerable practice of defaming Italian American politicians because of their heritage and must be brought to an end immediately," said D. Eugene R. Casagrande, regional VP of the NIAF. FYI: in last week's story we said that someone from the Riggs campaign was quoted as saying, "The Democratic Party is associated with the Mafia." That someone has been IDed by the Napa Register as a Tim Howard of Fairfield, but he's **not** a Riggs campaign worker --- just a Riggs supporter...

☒ **36th CD** - Incumbent U.S. Rep. Jane Harman(D-Torrance) has released info from her pollsters, Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group, which shows Harman leading her GOP rival, Rancho Palos Verdes councilwoman Susan Brooks, by a margin of 48% to 31%, with 21% undecided. The survey was conducted between July 8-10 among 503 likely voters (4.5% margin of error). In fundraising (as of 6/30/96) Harman has approximately \$700,000 cash on hand, compared to about \$109,000 for Brooks. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Assistant Campaign Manager** -- deputy needed to help manage day-to-day operations of initiative campaign. Assist with press, fund-raising, endorsements, coordination and office management. Experience, writing ability, preferred. Lower level position available too. Pay depends on experience. FAX resume: (310)451 - 7494...

CALPEEK's Marketplace Network is a listing of employer and employee availabilities for those engaged in campaign consulting, public affairs, public relations, government relations and legislative advocacy. The cost for each listing is \$25 for up to 40 words. Add \$5 for each additional 10 words. Send ad copy with payment to CALPEEK's Marketplace Network, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. For info (310)659-0205...